

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Weuthen et al.
Filing Date : June 29, 2001
Title : LIQUID DETERGENTS

Grp./A.U. : Unknown
Examiner : Unknown

Docket No. : C2213 US

Application Branch
Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Preliminary to examination, please amend the instant application as follows.

In the Specification:

At page 1, line 1, please delete "**Field of the Invention**" and replace with

--Background of the Invention--.

At page 1, line 6, delete "Prior Art".

At page 31, delete the current Abstract and replace with a new Abstract of the Invention, submitted herewith:

-- Abstract of the Disclosure

An aqueous laundry detergent composition containing a hydroxy mixed ether.

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In the Claims:

Cancel claims 1-10, without prejudice.

Please enter the following new claims.

11. An aqueous laundry detergent composition comprising a hydroxy mixed ether.

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12. The composition of claim 11 wherein the hydroxy mixed ether corresponds to formula (I):



wherein R¹ is a linear or branched alkyl group containing from about 2 to 18 carbon atoms, R² is hydrogen or a linear or branched alkyl group containing from about 2 to 18 carbon atoms, R³ is hydrogen or methyl, R⁴ is a linear or branched alkyl or alkenyl group containing from 1 to about 22 carbon atoms and n is a number from 1 to about 50, and wherein the total number of carbon atoms in the substituents R¹ and R² is at least 6.

13. The composition of claim 11 wherein the hydroxy mixed ether is present in the composition in an amount of from about 1 to 60% by weight, based on the weight of the composition.

14. The composition of claim 11 wherein the hydroxy mixed ether is present in the composition in an amount of from about 10 to 15% by weight, based on the weight of the composition.

15. The composition of claim 11 further comprising a co-surfactant component selected from the group consisting of an anionic surfactant, a nonionic surfactant, a cationic surfactant, an amphoteric surfactant, a zwitterionic surfactant, and mixtures thereof.

16. The composition of claim 15 wherein the co-surfactant component is present in the composition in an amount of from about 1 to 40% by weight, based on the weight of the composition.

17. A process for enhancing cleaning performance of an aqueous laundry detergent composition comprising adding a hydroxy mixed ether to the composition.

18. The process of claim 17 wherein the hydroxy mixed ether corresponds to formula (I):



wherein R¹ is a linear or branched alkyl group containing from about 2 to 18 carbon atoms, R² is hydrogen or a linear or branched alkyl group containing from about 2 to 18 carbon atoms, R³ is hydrogen or methyl, R⁴ is a linear or branched alkyl or alkenyl group containing from 1 to about 22 carbon atoms and n is a number from 1 to about 50, and wherein the total number of carbon atoms in the substituents R¹ and R² is at least 6.

19. The process of claim 17 wherein the hydroxy mixed ether is present in the composition in an amount of from about 1 to 60% by weight, based on the weight of the composition.

20. The process of claim 17 wherein the hydroxy mixed ether is present in the composition in an amount of from about 10 to 15% by weight, based on the weight of the composition.

21. The process of claim 17 wherein the composition further comprises a co-surfactant component selected from the group consisting of an anionic surfactant, a nonionic surfactant, a cationic surfactant, an amphoteric surfactant, a zwitterionic surfactant, and mixtures thereof.

22. The composition of claim 21 wherein the co-surfactant component is present in the composition in an amount of from about 1 to 40% by weight, based on the weight of the composition.

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REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 11-22 are currently pending in the instant application.

The Specification has been amended to include the preferred section headings pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.77. An Abstract of the Disclosure in accordance with the abstract of the corresponding international publication has been added on a separate sheet following the claims. All of the amendments to the Specification constitute deletions of original section headings and/or paragraphs, and insertions or additions of new section headings and/or paragraphs. It is submitted that the amendments to the Specification made herein introduce no new matter. Their entry is therefore proper and respectfully requested. Accordingly, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.121(b)(1)(iii), no separate page captioned "VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE" is necessary.

Original claims 1-10 have been canceled and replaced with new claims 11-22 solely for the purpose of improving clarity and grammar, which may suffer in translation, and not for any reason which relates to the statutory requirements for a patent. New claims 11-22 have not been added in response to any rejection, nor in anticipation of any rejection. Applicant(s) respectfully submit(s) that the scope of new claims 11-22 corresponds to the scope of original claims 1-10, and that new claims 11-22 are no narrower than original claims 1-10. Furthermore, although a moot point in view of their cancellation, Applicant(s) respectfully submit(s) that original claims 1-10 satisfied the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112, as filed. New claims 11-22 are supported by the claims as originally filed and by the Examples. No new matter has been introduced. Entry is therefore proper and respectfully requested.

Prompt examination of the instant application in view of the amendments

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made herein is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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